

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BRUSSELS DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1978  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, EEC, SHUM  
SUBJ: LABOR PRESSING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN  
'LOME II'

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 3153; (B) BRUSSELS 2619; (C)  
BRUSSELS 2739

1. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S \$800-MILLION-A-YEAR  
DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAM, IN THE OPINION OF THREE  
INTERNATIONAL LABOR GROUPS HEADQUARTERED HERE, REQUIRES  
A "SOCIAL DIMENSION" COVERING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR  
STANDARDS. THAT DIMENSION IS MISSING IN THE LOME  
CONVENTION, THE EC'S PRESENT AGREEMENT WITH 53 AFRICAN,  
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CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC (ACP) GOVERNMENTS, BUT THE  
AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN MARCH 1980, AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
"LOME II" ARE DUE TO START THIS SEPTEMBER.

2. THE ETUC, IN BEHALF OF ITSELF AND THE ICFTU AND WCL,  
HAS WRITTEN TO CLAUDE CHEYSSON, EC COMMISSIONER FOR  
DEVELOPMENT, ASKING HIM FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES FOR LOME II NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMMISSION LAST WEEK ADOPTED A PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WHICH IT HAS NOW FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (REF A). THE LABOR OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE COMMUNICATION, BUT FROM PRESS SUMMARIES THEY JUDGE IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT AT LEAST SOME CONCERNS LABOR LEADERS HAVE INFORMALLY EXPRESSED TO CHEYSSON, WHOM THEY FOUND SYMPATHETIC. A FORMAL ICFTU/WCL/ETUC MEETING WITH CHEYSSON, THEREFORE, APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN HIS HAND IN DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE WITH THE EC COUNCIL (AND LATER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES).

3. A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE OBJECTION FROM MANY ACP COUNTRIES THAT INSISTENCE ON RESPECT FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IS INTERFERENCE IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NONSENSE, SAYS MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY. "IN THIS DAY, ONE CAN NO LONGER HIDE BEHIND THIS ARGUMENT," HINTERSCHIED RECENTLY TOLD A GROUP OF BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES.

4. HINTERSCHIED SAID THAT THE ETUC WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE SATISFIED ONLY WITH PREAMBULAR RHETORIC ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT WILL INSIST THE BODY OF CONVENTION CONTAIN CLEAR LANGUAGE PENALIZING COUNTRIES WITH BAD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS. "IT IS UNIMAGINABLE," HINTERSCHIED SAID, "THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO COLLECT TAXES FROM OUR WORKERS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPE TO GO TO REGIMES THAT KILL WORKERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES." (COMMENT: CHEYSSON AND OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THAT IT WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE TO PERSUADE ACP COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT ANY SANCTIONS LANGUAGE IN LOME II. END COMMENT).

5. THE LABOR CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BUT TO THE LOW LABOR STANDARDS EXISTING IN MANY ACP COUNTRIES, WHICH PUT EC INDUSTRIES (TEXTILES, FOR EXAMPLE) AT A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE. HERE LABOR VIEWS RANGE FROM A MINIMUM POSITION OF (SAY) DISCOURAGING USE OF CHILD LABOR ALL THE WAY TO REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS ON FREEDOM TO UNIONIZE AND TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY. (SEE REF C FOR CHEYSSON'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.)

6. ANOTHER LABOR DEMAND, RAISED WITHOUT SUCCESS BEFORE THE LOME CONVENTION WAS ADOPTED IN 1975, IS THAT SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION WITH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF EC AND ACP COUNTRIES BE BUILT INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY OF LOME II. HINTON UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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